

STATE OF WISCONSIN

**Department of Agriculture,
Trade and Consumer Protection**

BIENNIAL REPORT

2007-2009





State of Wisconsin
Jim Doyle, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary

To: The Honorable Jim Doyle, Governor of Wisconsin
The Honorable Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature

Date: October 15, 2009

Attached is the 2007–09 biennial report of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The report reviews the department's accomplishments and activities for 2007–09 and our goals for the next biennium. It reflects the department's diverse mission, which includes agriculture, animal health, food safety, consumer protection, farmland preservation, and soil conservation.

Agriculture, including food processing, is a major component of the state's economy. A recent analysis by the University of Wisconsin found that, in 2007, agriculture contributed \$59.16 billion to Wisconsin's industrial output. This is about 12.5 percent of total output. Dairy alone contributed \$26.5 billion. Furthermore, agriculture and food processing contributed over 350,000 jobs to the state's economy, which is about 10 percent of total employment.

Supporting this vital sector is an essential part of the department's mission. The department's market development programs expand opportunities for Wisconsin farmers and agribusinesses and promote Wisconsin agricultural products in local, regional, and international markets. The department is also responsible for related issues, including controlling animal disease; preserving farmland; managing agrichemicals; and ensuring a safe food supply.

Since 1929, the department has been the state's primary consumer protection agency, working to protect the health, safety, and pocketbooks of Wisconsin citizens. The department works aggressively and proactively to uphold a business climate in which honest competitors can thrive and prosper. The department is committed to maintaining and updating its consumer protection services to reflect changing demographics, technologies, and consumer needs.

The department's mission is about more than economics. We take pride in supporting essential parts of the Wisconsin way of life including a safe and healthy food supply, fair dealing, and stewardship of our resources.

For more information on the department's programs, I invite you to visit datep.state.wi.us.

Sincerely,

Rod Nilsestuen
Secretary

Agriculture generates \$59 billion for Wisconsin

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State of Wisconsin
Jim Doyle, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary

Txog: Hawm txog Jim Doyle, Tswv Xeev Wisconsin
Hawm txog Tsoom Nom Tswv hauv Wisconsin State Legislature

Hnub tim: 10 hlis tim 15, 2009

Nrog tsab ntawv no yog daim ntawv qhia dej num 2007-09 ntawm Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Daim ntawv qhia dej num no qhia txog peb tes dej num ua tiav rau xyoo 2007-09 thiab peb cov hom phiaj ob xyoo tom ntej. Nws nthuav txog peb cov luag hauj lwm nrog rau kev ua liaj teb, kev tu tsiaj, kam noj kev haus, kev tiv thaiv pej xeeb, kev txwv txuag liaj teb thiab av.

Kev ua liaj teb nrog rau kev npaj khoom noj yog ib yam tseem ceeb rau kev lag luam hauv xeev. Nyob rau xyoo 2007 tsis ntev los no tsev tej kawm qib siab hauv xeev Wisconsin tau tshawb pom tias kev ua liaj teb tau nchuav nyiaj li ntawm \$59.16 billion rau kev tsim khoom hauv xeev Wisconsin. Nov yog khwv yees li 12.5 feem pua ntawm cov khoom tsim tawm tag nrho. Chaw ua mis nyuj nchuav nyiaj li ntawm \$26.5 million. Dhau li ntawd, kev ua liaj teb thiab npaj khoom noj qhib hauj lwm ntau tshaj li 350,000 txoj uas khwv yees li 10 feem pua ntawm cov hauj lwm tag nrho hauv xeev.

Kev txhawb nqa tej yam li saum toj no yog ib lub luag hauj lwm tseem ceeb ntawm peb chaw ua num. Peb kev pab rau sab lag luam los qhib qhov rooj dav fo pab rau tej neeg liaj teb, tej lag luam liaj teb thiab txhawb qhuas tej khoom cog thiab ua tawm hauv xeev Wisconsin no rau tej kiab khw nyob hauv zej zog, ib cheeb tsav thiab txawv teb chaws. Peb chaw ua num kuj muaj feem xyuas nrog rau kev tiv thaiv kab mob tsiaj, kev txwv txuag liaj teb, tswj kev siv tshuaj rau liaj teb thiab ntsuam xyuas khoom noj khoom hus kom nyab xeeb.

Txij li xyoo 1929, peb chaw ua num kuj yog ib lub koos haum tseem ceeb los tiv thaiv tej pej xeeb nyob hauv xeev. Lub chaw ua num yeej khiav hauj lwm kub siab lug tsis so kom muaj kev ncaj ncees saum kev sib tw lag luam. Lub chaw ua num yuav rau siab thiab hloov tej kev pab pej xeeb kom raws cuag tej kev tib neeg hloov, cuab yeej tshiab thiab pej xeeb kev xav tau.

Lub chaw ua num lub luag hauj lwm dav dua li kev lag luam. Peb txaus siab hlo los txhawb nqa txoj kev noj nyob hauv xeev Wisconsin nrog rau tej khoom noj khoom haus kom nyab xeeb, kev ua lag luam kom ncaj ncees thiab pov fwm peb tej dej av huab cua xyoob ntoo nroj tsuag.

Yog xav paub ntau txog peb chaw ua num kev pab cuam, kuv caw koj mus saib datcp.state.wi.us.

Nrog kuv ncaj ncees,

Rod Nilsestuen
Tus Tuav Ntawv

Agriculture generates \$59 billion for Wisconsin

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Estado de Wisconsin
Jim Doyle, Gobernador

Departamento de Agricultura, Comercio y Protección al Consumidor
Rod Nilsestuen, Secretario

Para: EL honorable Jim Doyle, Gobernador de Wisconsin
Los Honorables miembros del consejo legislativo del Estado de Wisconsin

Fecha: 15 de Octubre, 2009

Adjunto se encuentra el reporte bienal 2007-09 del Departamento de Agricultura, Comercio y Protección al Consumidor del Estado de Wisconsin. Este reporte reseña los logros y actividades del Departamento durante 2007-09 y nuestras metas para los próximos dos años. Reflejando la misión diversa del Departamento, la cual incluye agricultura, salud animal, seguridad de los alimentos, protección al consumidor, preservación de tierra agrícola, y conservación de suelos.

La Agricultura, incluyendo el proceso de los alimentos, es el mayor componente de la economía del Estado. Un reciente análisis conducido por la Universidad de Wisconsin encontró que, en el 2007, la agricultura ha contribuido \$59.16 billones de dólares al rendimiento de la industria de Wisconsin. Esto es alrededor de 12.5 por ciento del total rendimiento. Solo la lechería contribuye con \$26.5 billones. Es más, la agricultura y el procesamiento de alimentos contribuyen con más de 350,000 empleos a la economía del Estado, lo que equivale al 10 por ciento del total de empleos. El soporte de este sector vital es parte esencial de la misión del Departamento. El programa de desarrollo del mercado expande las oportunidades para los granjeros y negocios agrícolas de promover productos agrícolas de Wisconsin en mercados locales, regionales e internacionales. El Departamento es también responsable de temas relacionados, incluyendo el control de enfermedades de los animales; preservación de tierra agrícola; manejo de químicos agrícolas; y asegurar el suministro de alimentos.

Desde el 1929, el Departamento ha sido la principal agencia en ofrecer protección al consumidor, trabajando en proteger la salud, seguridad y los bolsillos de los ciudadanos de Wisconsin. Trabajamos agresivamente y con iniciativa para sostener un clima de negocios donde competidores honestos puedan crecer y prosperar. El Departamento esta comprometido en mantener y actualizar los servicios de protección al consumidor que reflejan los cambios demográficos, tecnológicos y las necesidades del consumidor.

Nuestra misión es mucho más que economía. Nos enorgullecemos en ofrecer apoyo a una parte esencial de la forma de vida de Wisconsin, incluyendo un seguro y saludable suministro de alimentos, negociaciones justa, y la administración de nuestros recursos.

Para más información en los programas del departamento, los invito a que visiten datcp.state.wi.us.

Cordialmente,

Rod Nilsestuen
Secretario

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Agency Overview – Introduction

Department Mission

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has an important mission. The department works for all the people of Wisconsin to ensure:

- The safety and quality of food.
- Consumer protection.
- Fair business practices for the buyer and the seller.
- Efficient use of agricultural resources in a quality environment.
- Healthy animals and plants.
- The vitality of Wisconsin agriculture and commerce.

Department Authority

DATCP is primarily a regulatory agency, although it also provides many non-regulatory services. DATCP is the state-level equivalent of six federal agencies:

- Federal Food and Drug Administration (food safety and labeling).
- Federal Trade Commission (unfair and deceptive business practices).
- Consumer Product Safety Commission (consumer product safety).
- Department of Agriculture (meat inspection, animal and plant health, agricultural marketing, and land and water resources).
- Environmental Protection Agency (pesticides and groundwater).
- Department of Commerce (weights and measures, trade, and commerce).

The department administers laws that the Legislature has enacted and assigned to DATCP. Most of these laws are found in chapters 88 to 100, 127, 134, 136, and 707 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Under authority granted by the Legislature, DATCP has adopted rules to implement these laws. DATCP rules are published under chapters ATCP 1 to ATCP 162 of the Wisconsin administrative code.

In one way or another, DATCP's jurisdiction extends to nearly every business in the state. The department has broad authority to make rules that have the force of law. DATCP also licenses approximately 100,000 individuals and businesses.

DATCP's first aim is to listen well, communicate effectively, and help producers, consumers and businesses solve problems. But DATCP also has substantial enforcement authority should that be necessary. The department may conduct hearings and investigations, perform inspections, issue subpoenas, collect and analyze samples, issue compliance orders, and suspend or revoke licenses. In cooperation with a local district attorney or the Department of Justice, DATCP may also prosecute law violations in court.

Department Services

DATCP provides many services to the people of Wisconsin, including consumer and business information, complaint handling, laboratory testing, agricultural development and marketing services, farm assistance, and more.

Persons needing assistance may call the department's toll-free hotlines. DATCP provides "grass roots" services throughout the state with commodity inspection offices in Stevens Point and the port of Superior, and department field staff posted throughout the state.

Department Organization

The DATCP Board, a nine-member board of private citizens, establishes department policy at monthly meetings and approves all rules. Board members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for six-year terms.

The Secretary of the department is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Secretary administers the department and appoints DATCP's division administrators. DATCP is divided into six divisions:

- Food Safety.
- Trade and Consumer Protection.
- Animal Health.
- Agricultural Development.
- Agricultural Resource Management.
- Management Services.

DATCP has a diverse and highly qualified professional staff that includes statisticians, chemists, economists, inspectors, investigators, consumer specialists, engineers, business and marketing professionals, science professionals, public health sanitarians, veterinarians, accountants, auditors, attorneys, hydrogeologists, agronomists, entomologists, and information technology professionals.

Department Budget

2007 Wisconsin Act 20 provided an authorized budget level for the biennium of \$189.166 million. Approximately 24 percent of this total, or \$46 million, was earmarked for aids to local governments, organizations, and individuals. Another 3.7 percent was dedicated for debt service. Funding was derived from a variety of sources, including: general purpose revenues (31.8%), program revenue and segregated license and user fees (52.4%), and federal grants (15.8%).

Attached Boards and Councils

Several statutory boards and councils are attached to DATCP. DATCP also appoints citizen advisory committees to advise the department on major policy issues. These include standing advisory committees as well as temporary advisory committees related to specific issues.

Office of the Secretary

The Office of the Secretary includes the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Executive Assistant and staff. Staff include:

- Administrative law Judge (transferred in 2009 to the Department of Administration).
- Office of Legal Counsel.
- Budget Director.
- Legislative Liaison.
- Policy and Communications.
- Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service (state-federal office).

The DATCP Secretary administers the department, subject to policy direction from the DATCP Board. The Secretary is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The Secretary has ultimate responsibility for:

- Managing DATCP staff, programs, budget and operations.
- Appointing the Deputy Secretary, the Executive Assistant, and the division administrators to serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.
- Managing DATCP external relations, including relations with the Legislature and Governor.
- Developing budget, policy and legislative initiatives, subject to DATCP Board approval.
- Adopting, amending and repealing rules, with DATCP Board approval.
- Issuing orders and “contested case” decisions.

The Deputy Secretary exercises all powers and authority of the Secretary when the Secretary is absent, and performs other duties prescribed by the Secretary. The Executive Assistant performs executive duties prescribed by the Secretary.

Administrative Law Judge

The administrative law judge presides over DATCP contested cases (license suspension hearings, etc.), and recommends final decisions to the DATCP Secretary. The 2009-2011 biennial budget act transferred this function to the Department of Administration (DOA), Division of Hearings and Appeals, which will provide administrative law judge services to DATCP for a fee.

Office of Legal Counsel

The Office of Legal Counsel coordinates the department’s wide-ranging legal operations, and provides in-house legal services to the department, the Secretary, and the DATCP Board. The Office of Legal Counsel:

- Guides development of DATCP regulatory and enforcement policies.
- Coordinates DATCP rulemaking and drafts administrative rules.
- Develops and drafts proposed legislation.
- Provides legal support for DATCP programs, including regulatory and enforcement support.
- Provides legal advice and interpretations.
- Litigates administrative cases.
- Assists district attorneys and the Department of Justice in court actions affecting DATCP, and represents DATCP in court as necessary.
- Coordinates case-tracking and case management.
- Provides legal advice and assistance to the DATCP Board, the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board, and other attached boards and councils.

Budget Director

The Budget Director:

- Coordinates DATCP biennial budget requests.
- Provides budget analysis and recommendations to the DATCP Secretary.
- Coordinates budget communications and implementation with the Department of Administration and the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.
- Coordinates DATCP budget management with the Bureau of Finance.

Legislative Liaison

The Legislative Liaison coordinates DATCP communications with the Legislature.

Policy and Communications

Staff provide policy analysis, policy development, emergency planning assistance, public communications services (news releases, speeches, media inquiries, etc.), and federal liaison assistance to the DATCP Secretary and divisions.

Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

The state-federal statistics service develops statistics on agricultural production and provides statistical analyses on a broad range of agricultural and non-agricultural issues. The statistics service:

- Estimates Wisconsin agricultural production, inventories, and prices.
- Publishes state and federal agricultural statistics.
- Coordinates statistical services with the US Department of Agriculture.
- Conducts special statistical surveys and analyses.

2007-2009 Accomplishments:

The Secretary's Office guided major DATCP initiatives including:

- *Working Lands Initiative*, including successful budget legislation to overhaul Wisconsin's 30-year-old farmland preservation program, provide improved tax credits for farmers, update farmland preservation planning and zoning, create agricultural enterprise areas, strengthen conservation compliance, and provide for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements.
- *Livestock facility siting law and rules* (implementation), designed to facilitate livestock industry growth while protecting the environment and local community values.
- *Dairy, food and meat industry innovation*, including successful advocacy and support for the highly successful Value-Added Dairy Initiative, tax incentives for dairy industry reinvestment, interstate meat sales, "Buy Local" foods, and grazing and organic food production.
- *Stronger food safety and disease control*, including food law modernization, better laboratory facilities, improved food safety and animal health staffing, improved federal-state coordination, and stronger regulation of rendering plants, inedible animal byproducts and feed. DATCP also pushed for more cost-effective federal milk regulation.
- *Stronger agricultural producer security*, including legislation and other steps to help protect producers against catastrophic defaults by grain dealers, grain warehouse keepers, dairy plants and vegetable contractors.
- *Response to Emerald Ash Borer, fish disease (VHS), and other invasive species and disease threats*, including extensive public information and state-federal coordination.
- *Bio-economy initiatives*, including cooperative initiatives with the Office of Energy Independence and the University of Wisconsin.
- *Animal waste and nutrient management*, including expanded programs to improve waste utilization on farms and prevent pollution runoff.

- *Response to farm financial crisis, including record low milk prices in 2009.*
- *Legislation and rules, including:*
 - Working lands (see above)
 - Emerald ash borer and other invasives
 - Livestock facility siting (implementation)
 - Meat and inedible animal by-products
 - Dairy food safety
 - Food processing plants
 - Retail food establishments
 - Animal disease control (including disease of fish and farm-raised deer)
 - Pet facilities (legislation pending)
 - Consumer credit reports
 - Price gouging in emergencies
 - Electronic communications services
 - Weights and measures
 - Agricultural producer security
 - Consumer product safety
 - “Buy local” grant program
 - Agricultural seed
 - Nursery growers and dealers
 - Food law overhaul and update (draft pending)
- *Court and administrative cases, including approximately 150 new cases in each year of the biennium.*

Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

- Results from the 2007 Census of Agriculture were published, including new summaries by state legislative district and watershed.
- A Dairy Investment Survey provided information on infrastructure improvements on dairy farms along with future investment plans.
- Studies on the goat and sheep milk producer groups were conducted. Results from a survey of goat and sheep milk processors were released.
- A summary of agricultural land sales was published.
- An analysis of milk test results and dairy farm inspections was conducted for the Food Safety Division.
- A customer satisfaction survey was conducted for the Trade and Consumer Protection Division.

Division of Food Safety

The Division of Food Safety (DFS) is the state's primary food regulatory division. The division is responsible for the safety and wholesomeness of the state's food supply, from production through processing, packaging, distribution, and retail sale. The division also protects consumers from fraud and misbranding of food products.

DFS administers food inspection, dairy inspection, Grade A milk certification, and meat and poultry inspection programs. The division manages a product grading program for cheese, butter, and eggs and a laboratory evaluation program for laboratories that perform microbiological and drug residue analyses on food, milk, or water. The division also ensures food safety and consumer protection through food sampling and label review.

The Bureau of Food Safety and Inspection licenses and inspects more than 13,200 dairy farms and 4,112 other dairy-related businesses, such as dairy plants and bulk milk tankers. The bureau also licenses 6,455 other food businesses, such as food processors, grocery stores, and warehouses. The Bureau of Meat Safety and Inspection administers Wisconsin's state meat inspection program. The bureau licenses and inspects 291 meat establishments and 52 custom meat processors, and registers 264 meat and poultry wholesalers and 28 mobile slaughterers.

The division collaborates with local governments to protect food safety. Since 2004, the number of cities and counties that license and inspect retail food stores as agents for DATCP increased from 24 to 39. These "local agents" must comply with DATCP rules and Wisconsin Administrative Codes.

2007-2009 Accomplishments:

- In December 2008, the division welcomed Dr. Steven C. Ingham as its new Division Administrator after the retirement of long-time Division Administrator Steve Steinhoff.
- DFS was an active partner in responding to several national high-profile foodborne illnesses over the past two years, such as the *Salmonella* Saintpaul outbreak that infected more than 1,400 people nationwide, including 13 people in Wisconsin in 2008. The division identified and worked with Wisconsin businesses to remove products sold in Wisconsin that contained melamine-contaminated dairy products from China and managed food safety issues during major flooding in Wisconsin in 2007 and 2008.
- In August 2009, DATCP hosted a meeting with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Dr. Margaret Hamburg to discuss the importance of developing an integrated national food safety system that fully recognizes the critical role that state and local agencies play in protecting the nation's food supply. The division also worked with Wisconsin's congressional delegation to provide input on federal food safety legislation.
- FDA recently awarded DFS an innovative food defense grant. The grant will be used to develop a geographic information system for monitoring the safety status of food establishments after a food defense incident.
- The division partnered with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to conduct Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) inspections.
- DFS held town hall meetings with the meat industry in May and June of 2009. It also began planning for the possible implementation of new federal regulations that will allow certain state-inspected meat establishments to ship their products in interstate commerce. Currently, state-inspected meat plants may only ship their products within the state's borders.
- The division continues its participation in the FDA's Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS) pilot program. FDA developed the standards as a method to promote more consistency between state and federal food regulatory programs. In 2007-2009, the division developed a baseline assessment to evaluate the extent to which Wisconsin's program currently meets the standards and then created a plan to improve the state's performance on each standard.

- The division revised administrative rules governing dairy farms, as well as those governing food processing plants. It began the process to revise Wisconsin's food regulations found in Chapter 97 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

2009-2011 Program Goals:

- Continue to ensure safe, high quality food for the consumer by:
 - Providing education, consultation, and regulation to food businesses to assist them in producing safe, high quality food.
 - Responding to consumer concerns and information needs.
 - Advocating for the food safety needs of the public.
- Continue efforts to assure the division's programs are consistent with FDA and USDA standards for food and meat regulatory programs.
- Continue efforts to improve the division's food emergency preparedness and response systems.

Division of Trade and Consumer Protection

The Division of Trade and Consumer Protection (TCP) has primary responsibility for Wisconsin's consumer protection programs, including administration and enforcement of laws regulating deceptive advertising, consumer product safety, consumer fraud and protection, and Wisconsin's No Call program. The division's broad authority to prohibit unfair trade practices by rule forms the cornerstone of the state's general trade regulation and consumer protection programs. The division administers the statewide consumer protection hotline and coordinates the regional consumer protection offices.

TCP also houses the Wisconsin Office of Privacy Protection (OPP) which provides education and information regarding identity theft, assists local law enforcement in apprehending and successfully prosecuting identity thieves, and provides one-on-one assistance to victims of identity theft.

The division regulates many commercial transactions including apartment and manufactured home site rentals, auto repairs, and home improvements. Environmental regulations include packaging regulations and controls on repairs of vehicle air conditioners to minimize impact on ozone levels.

TCP enforces many regulations affecting commercial transactions in Wisconsin, including state laws requiring honest weights and measures for all commodities. Trade practices are regulated to protect and to promote fair and open competition in the marketplace. Its trade practices programs include the regulation of predatory pricing practices and discriminatory sale practices. In order to protect agricultural producers from fraud and devastating financial defaults, division auditors monitor the financial condition and business practices of dairy plants, grain warehouses, and food processing plants.

In cooperation with USDA, inspection programs include grading, inspection, weighing, and certification of grain, fruits, and vegetable products. The goal of these inspection programs is to ensure accurate representation of product quality, condition, size, and compliance with grade and labeling standards and export requirements.

2007-2009 Accomplishments:

- The Bureau of Consumer Protection recovered more than \$4.5 million and handled nearly 246,000 complaints and inquiries in 2008.
- Wisconsin's No-Call program allows consumers who do not wish to receive telephone solicitations to place their telephone numbers on a no-call list and prohibits solicitors from calling numbers on the list. In June 2008, cell phone numbers could be added to the No-Call list. As of January 2009, the list broke all previous list records with 1,605,105 numbers registered, including more than 421,860 cell phone numbers.
- In 2008, Weights and Measures staff inspected more than 39,000 devices, 156,000 packages, and 5,400 business locations.
- OPP assisted more than 18,000 consumers combat identity theft in 2008. The OPP also educated over 1,500 law enforcement officers, 58 businesses, and numerous government entities about identity theft and best practices for protecting personal information. It also works to train others, such as the American Association of Retired Persons Fraud Fighters, to broaden the scope of OPP's educational efforts.
- In 2008, there were 92,000 hits to the Bureau of Consumer Protection's website with over 1.2 million pages visited. In addition, the Bureau distributed over 193,000 educational publications.
- The department grades and certifies approximately 12 million CWT of fruits and vegetables, primarily potatoes, apples, cherries, onions, and cabbage. The value of the product inspected is approximately \$30 million to Wisconsin's farmers.

- The primary grain commodities inspected under the cooperative agreement with the USDA are barley, corn, flax, oats, rye, soybeans, sunflowers, canola, and wheat. In 2008, the department inspected 735 truckloads, 18,785 train cars, and 48 shiploads of grain.
- Beginning in October 2007 and ending in July 2008, the Special Workgroup on Agricultural Producer Security met to analyze the Producer Security Program and evaluate the best and most efficient approach to provide protection for producers against financial default by the businesses that buy milk, grain, and process vegetables. The group made a number of recommendations, many of which the department has already implemented; others are in progress.

2009-2011 Program Goals:

- Continue to ensure fair business practices for buyers and sellers and safe products for consumers and the environment by establishing and enforcing legal standards, by mediating disputes between consumers and businesses, and by providing consumer education and information to Wisconsin citizens with the goal to return to consumers and government money gained through unfair business practices.

Division of Animal Health

The Division of Animal Health (DAH) is responsible for the prevention, diagnosis and control of diseases that cause losses to the livestock industry and threaten human health. It encompasses all of the state's agricultural resources susceptible to destruction by animal diseases and thus safeguards animal health and animal agricultural economics. The division is also responsible for training humane officers and assisting local governments in the enforcement of laws for the humane treatment of animals.

Protection is achieved through surveillance, vaccination programs, regulatory compliance and enforcement activities designed to prevent and control diseases. Activities to control animal related disease include disease surveillance, field investigation, quarantine and regulatory control of animal movement as well as premises registration and animal identification for movement and tracing purposes.

2007-2009 Accomplishments:

- Emergency response. The division has developed and begun recruiting for the Wisconsin Animal Response Corps, a group of volunteers skilled in handling animals in emergency situations. This group was formerly the Wisconsin Veterinary Corps and has recently been expanded to include humane shelter operators, producers, and other animal handlers in addition to veterinarians and veterinary technicians. The Wisconsin Animal Response Corps currently has over 200 members. Two training opportunities have been offered: introductory sessions in 2008, and the Tri-State Veterinary Disaster Response Conference offered in April 2009 in La Crosse.

DAH has also conducted annual personal protective equipment training exercises using an avian influenza scenario for field staff. These annual trainings utilize the Incident Command System, and are conducted jointly with the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) Veterinary Services field staff. Other agencies have also been invited to attend and train.

- Johne's Disease. Johne's disease is a livestock disease that is contagious and causes significant economic losses to the livestock industry. Proper management and testing are a significant part of a management plan to reduce the risk of disease transmission within a farm or of transfer of the disease from farm to farm. The division provides \$340,000 annually to cattle and goat producers to assist with risk assessment management plans (RAMP) and testing costs.

The Johne's program certifies veterinarians to develop RAMPS with producers that wish to participate. For the 2009 certification year, there are 325 RAMP certified veterinarians and 227 vaccine certified vets. Producer involvement in the program is remaining steady with 1,356 herds with active RAMPs, 345 classified herds, and 520 vaccinating herds.

- Poultry. The division administers the National Poultry Improvement Program which is a national program designed to ensure the health of poultry moving in interstate commerce. Currently, there are 227 participants in the program. The division also administers a Wisconsin Tested Flock program for poultry owners that are moving locally and showing poultry at fairs. Both of these programs require birds to be tested by department certified testers. The division held 10 seminars around the state to certify testers to conduct testing under these programs.

During the biennium the division has received \$457,000 in cooperative agreement awards from the USDA-APHIS for conducting surveillance for avian influenza. The division has accomplished this by paying for testing done at large commercial facilities in accordance with federal program requirements, and by reaching out to and offering sampling to small poultry producers in areas considered high risk due to the migration patterns of wild birds and those that participate in swap meats and live bird markets. Additionally, numerous educational seminars have been held around the state for poultry owners and veterinarians.

- Farm-Raised Deer. For the 2009-10 registration year there are 605 registered farm-raised deer operations; 462 of the farm-raised deer facilities are enrolled in the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) monitoring program. Since the discovery of CWD in wild deer in 2001, over 24,496 farm-raised deer have been tested, of which 99 deer have been positive for CWD from nine deer farms (82 of these positives were from one highly infected farm.) All infected farms were depopulated. All positive White-tailed farm-raised deer premises have been linked to wild deer exposure.

The division has worked cooperatively with the USDA and has received federal cooperative funds since 2004. These funds have been used to support the industry and ensure compliance with CWD rules. Since this time, 30% of the funding received has been utilized to negate the fiscal impact on the industry from testing costs and fencing requirements and to encourage compliance with the regulations. The funds have been distributed to the industry as follows: \$514,553 for double fencing of herds, \$229,521 for CWD sampling reimbursement, and \$12,641 for official individual identification.

Additionally, the division has utilized federal funding to develop a database that will integrate farm-raised deer herd information, making it accessible using a single database. This database will expedite annual census registration and facilitate communication with USDA concerning CWD enrolled herds.

- Equine. In December 2008, the division received notification from Kentucky that a Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) positive animal traced to Wisconsin. The investigation on this event involved over 200 horses in Wisconsin. Wisconsin accredited veterinarians provided substantial assistance with testing and treating exposed horses. A USDA-VS incident management team assisted in the management of the CEM response. The investigation has identified a total of nine infected stallions and one mare.
- Pseudorabies. In April of 2007, three pigs tested positive for Pseudorabies and traced back to a Clark county swine farm. These positives led to 68 herds being tested resulting in:
 - o 2 infected herds,
 - o 21 positive animals, and
 - o 320 animals destroyed.

Ultimately, this infection was traced to a premises that had exposure to feral swine.

In January 2009, a feral swine shot in Crawford county was reported as a Pseudorabies suspect. The division worked collaboratively with USDA Wildlife Services and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to hold community meetings. Division staff completed an area test of swine herds within five miles of the suspect feral pig and reported no positive test results.

- Premises registration. The division has successfully registered nearly 60,000 premises in the state of Wisconsin. Premises registration has proved itself valuable in the Pseudorabies trace and area test to assist in the division's capacity to quickly identify and notify premises within the at-risk zone. Additionally, the premises registration database allowed for the division to quickly contact registered swine producers with information on keeping their swine safe during the initial H1N1 outbreak in the spring of 2009.
- Aquaculture. The registration of fish farms is a critical component of surveillance. Currently, the division has registered 2,427 fish farms for the 2009-10 registration year. In the spring of 2007, viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) was discovered in the Lake Winnebago watershed along with Lake Michigan and Green Bay. This virus could potentially have a devastating effect on fish populations in the wild and on farms in Wisconsin. The division has implemented strict rules for the testing of susceptible species prior to movement to and from Wisconsin fish farms and introduction into waters of the state.

During the biennium, the division has received \$407,000 in cooperative agreement awards from the USDA-APHIS for surveillance of wild and farmed fish species susceptible to VHS. This has

resulted in extensive testing of fish in high risk regions of Wisconsin and inspections being completed on all fish farms that are actively moving live fish.

- Humane. The division offers annual humane officer training seminars to certify potential humane officers for local jurisdictions. Since the training program began in the spring of 2000, over 518 people have been trained and 188 people have been certified and are eligible for appointment as humane officers. Currently, 84 humane officers are appointed by local jurisdictions. New in 2008, the division put together a seminar on investigating animal abuse and animal forensics. This seminar was well received with 137 people attending.
- Dog Licenses. The division took steps to streamline the process by which the local governments order dog license tags. Previously, local governments ordered their tags through the division in order to get the state purchasing discounts. This year the division renegotiated the contract with the tag provider to allow local units of government to order directly from them and still retain the state volume price.
- Rabies. The division issues and maintains quarantines on premises where rabies positive animals may have exposed other animals. There were 72 rabies quarantines issued during the biennium. Annual rabies training courses were conducted; during the biennium there were 143 attendees. These courses attract individuals employed by public health departments, police departments and humane societies. The division responds to numerous questions regarding rabies as well as other public health and zoonotic disease issues, working closely with state and local public health agencies.
- Compliance and inspection activities. Compliance and inspection staff investigate tips on illegal imports as well as periodically monitoring truck traffic with law enforcement. Compliance and inspection staff have worked with program veterinarians to establish risk-based inspection standards for animal markets, truckers, dealers, fish farms and farm-raised deer operations. Special emphasis is placed on record keeping, especially by truckers, dealers, and animal markets, to enhance the division's ability to trace animal movements in order to control and eradicate diseases.
- Notable Collaborations:
DAH staff is continuing to collaborate with DNR staff on many fronts:
 - Deer feeding and baiting ban.
 - CWD science team.
 - Regular communication with law enforcement on compliance with Farm-Raised Deer Keeper regulations with the fencing certificate on white-tailed deer.
 - Working with fisheries staff to ensure compliance with current fish health requirements.
 - Wolf re-establishment science team.
 - Feral swine control/eradication.

Extensive interaction with UW School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM), and other colleges and universities examples include:

- Drs. Ehlenfeldt, McGraw, Kebus and Konkle gave lectures at the Public Health and Regulatory Medicine course at the SVM.
- Dr. Kebus directed a Veterinary Epidemiology Recitation at UW-SVM.
- Drs. Bellay and McGraw presented career information to 3rd year veterinary students at the UW-Madison SVM.
- Dr. Bellay presented Humane and Rabies information to vet tech students at Madison Area Technical College.
- Dr. Bellay gave Animal Welfare presentation to veterinary students at Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital

Participated in the organization of and participated in the tri-state conference on veterinary disaster response.

2009-2011 Program Goals:

- Continue to efficiently safeguard animal health and animal agricultural economics. DAH will continue education and outreach with livestock producers and licensed entities, including but not limited to inspections to insure compliance with animal health regulations. The division will expand our collaborative efforts with other state agencies, other states, and Wisconsin's universities and livestock industries.

Division of Agricultural Development

The Division of Agricultural Development (DAD) is dedicated to growing Wisconsin agriculture. Production agriculture, food processing, and related businesses contribute \$59 billion each year to the state's economy, and the division's role is to help develop, expand, diversify, and support those businesses.

To fulfill its mission as the agricultural development arm of the department, the division is organized into three bureaus: the Agricultural Business and Sector Development Bureau, the Farm and Rural Services Bureau (including the Wisconsin Farm Center), and the Agricultural Market Development Bureau.

The Agricultural Business and Sector Development programs develop capacity, partnerships and projects to stimulate business creation and growth within agriculture.

- *The Agricultural Development and Diversification (ADD) Program* awards annual grants on a competitive basis to promote new value-added products and technologies, market development and research, and feasibility studies.
- *The Value Added Dairy Initiative (VADI)* focuses on growing the state's dairy industry through support for specialty dairy and cheese production, helping producers modernize and diversify, and assisting processors in adding value through improved processes and new products.
- *Grazing and Organic Initiatives* provide technical assistance and support to the grazing and organic agriculture sectors, including the Organic Advisory Council and the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative.
- *The Specialty Meat Initiative* helps to raise awareness of the heritage and quality of Wisconsin's processed meat businesses by providing marketing and technical assistance, focusing on small to medium sized businesses.

The Wisconsin Farm Center enhances the quality of personalized service the agency offers to farmers. The Center serves as an information, resource and referral service, including a hotline where farmers in need can obtain assistance. Key Farm Center programs include:

- *The Farm Mediation and Farmer Assistance Program* which provides information and technical assistance, including financial analysis, legal information, mediation, and job counseling. The program is supported by volunteer farm advisors and mediators who mediate debtor/creditor USDA Farm Program conflicts and a variety of contract issues.
- *The Beginning and Transitioning Farmer Program* which provides technical and business planning assistance, and partners with other organizations to coordinate regional and statewide workshops which address critical issues for beginning farmers and those transitioning farms to new ownership.
- *Rural Electric Power Services (REPS) Program*. In cooperation with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, the program offers farmers and rural electric power distributors assistance related to power issues and veterinary assistance to address herd health issues. The program provides staff assistance to the Rural Energy Management Council.
- *Outreach to Underserved Farmers*. The division staff works with underserved minority, women, and beginning farmers to provide risk management education and access to resources.

The Agricultural Market Development programs support Wisconsin agribusiness in developing state, national and international markets for Wisconsin agricultural products.

- *The International AgriBusiness Center* identifies market development opportunities around the world for Wisconsin's agricultural companies and producers. Staff provides technical expertise and initiatives to aid in the growth of Wisconsin agriculture through increased exports and trade enhancing partnerships across the globe.

- *Market Wisconsin* The Market Wisconsin team focuses resources on development of markets and strategies to help producers, processors, consumers and communities identify demand and potential for Wisconsin-produced products. Components of the Market Wisconsin program include:
 - *Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin.* The program enhances marketing and business skills, and encourages distribution and processing networks between consumers, food producers, distributors, retailers and public institutions. Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin grants provide support for local food systems development.
 - *Alice in Dairyland.* Alice in Dairyland serves as a spokesperson for Wisconsin agriculture and promotes agricultural products to audiences of all ages. Each year, Alice generates more than \$1 million in unpaid media coverage on television, radio and print.
 - *Something Special from Wisconsin (SSfW).* This market development program allows companies to use the SSfW logo on their product labels and promotional materials. Companies have the opportunity to showcase their products at a variety of trade shows and special events.
 - *SavorWisconsin.com.* This on-line resource provides information to help businesses and consumers find suppliers of local agricultural products.
 - *Farm-to-School program.* This federally funded program helps to bring locally grown foods to schools and to enhance farmer-school-community partnerships to enhance consumption of local products and student nutrition.

The division's other programs serve special needs in Wisconsin's agricultural community:

County Fairs

DATCP administers state aid for premiums for Wisconsin's 76 county and district fairs. Staff also maintains the list of registered judges for fairs and distributes 30,000 fair entertainment brochures annually.

Agricultural Education

DATCP supports and assists the Secretary-appointed Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council. Its mission is to attract, develop, and retain the premium workforce required to Grow Wisconsin's agricultural industry, food, and natural resource systems.

Local Aids/Assistance

Funding is provided through the division's budget for:

- World Dairy Expo to be used to emphasize the advantages and strengths of Wisconsin's dairy industry.
- Dane County for debt payment on the Exposition Center.
- Agriculture in the Classroom – funding to educate students about the role and importance of agriculture.

2007-2009 Accomplishments:

- The Value Added Dairy Initiative (VADI) had a significant impact on to the growth of the dairy and specialty cheese sector. During 2007-09:
 - Specialty cheese increased to almost 20 percent of the state's total annual cheese production, up from 12.5% in 2002.
 - 13 new cheese processing facilities came on line and 28 experienced major expansions.
 - The Dairy Business Innovation Center provided technical and marketing assistance to 88 specialty dairy/specialty cheese clients.
 - Awarded \$300,000 in grants to 22 dairy processors for innovative projects and provided \$56,000 for dairy farm modernization projects, \$12,500 for value chain development, and \$35,000 for a dairy development loan for a plant expansion.

- The Agricultural Development and Diversification grant program awarded \$829,670 to 33 projects designed to develop new products, processes, or markets and add value to agricultural products. Since its inception in 1989 the program has generated an estimated \$108 million in economic returns.
- Business and financial planning - developed business financials for 101 clients, and completed or assisted in the development of more than 90 business plans.
- Organic agriculture – assisted more than 600 clients and distributed over \$400,000 in federal organic cost share funds to 668 certified organic farms and processors.
- Grazing – provided technical assistance to more than 400 clients and administered \$1,659,000 in federal and state funds for 62 grazing grants (research, education and technical assistance).
- Specialty Meat Initiative (SMI) - Received \$350,000 in federal grant funds to start the SMI and create a Specialty Meat Development Center which will provide technical and market development assistance for the state's processed meat facilities.
- Implemented the new Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin (BLBW) program (created in the 2007-09 biennial budget) and distributed \$225,000 in the first round of BLBW grants.
- Administered \$474,000 from three rounds of federal Specialty Crop Block Grants to make 22 grants to improve the profitability and competitiveness of specialty crops.
- Received Americorps funding to develop a farm-to-school program that assists schools in partnering with farmers to offer local foods to students. This encourages local food growth and improved nutrition.
- In collaboration with Commerce, provided federally funded international trade services that resulted in an increase of export sales of more than \$31 million. More than 750 Wisconsin companies participated in these export programs and services.
- The Wisconsin Farm Center:
 - Helped 142 beginning farmer clients to identify resources and opportunities.
 - Using federal grant funding, provided risk management workshops to Hmong, Hispanic, women and underserved farmers.
 - Assisted almost 2,000 hotline callers with resource information and referrals.
 - Opened 79 new mediation cases and provided financial advising to over 200 farm families. \$190,000 worth of time was provided by volunteer mediators and financial advisors to assist farmers with dispute resolution and financial management.

2009-2011 Program Goals:

- Goal: Develop and support a more diversified and profitable Wisconsin ag industry and create an environment that fosters innovation, new development and high value markets.
- Objective: Provide technical and financial assistance and educational and outreach activities.
- Objective: Initiatives to develop new profit centers and opportunities for farmers and agribusiness.

Division of Agricultural Resource Management

The Agricultural Resource Management division (ARM) is comprised of the Land and Water Resources Bureau, the Plant Industry Bureau, and the Agrichemical Management Bureau.

The Land and Water Resources Bureau is responsible for activities related to farmland preservation and soil and water conservation. The bureau reviews county agricultural preservation plans, land and water resource management plans, and exclusive agricultural zoning ordinances, and analyzes the impacts of public projects on farmland. The bureau is responsible for development and implementation of nutrient management requirements for the state. The bureau also administers the livestock siting standards and drainage district program. Bureau engineering staff provide design services, training, and review plans for cost-share and permit compliance. The programs are supplemented by providing financial and technical assistance to landowners and to county land conservation committees and departments. The bureau is also responsible for staffing the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB), and the Wisconsin Livestock Facility Siting Review Board (LFSRB). The LWCB reviews and makes recommendations regarding annual allocation plans to counties to implement land and water conservation plans. The LFSRB is authorized to review appeals of local decisions involving permit applications for new and expanded livestock facilities.

The Plant Industry Bureau works to control serious plant pests, diseases and exotic species that threaten Wisconsin's crops, forests, and plant communities. It also works to control honeybee diseases and pests. The bureau uses quarantine, survey, and treatment programs, as necessary, to control major pests such as gypsy moth and emerald ash borer. It inspects bee colonies, lumber, nursery stock, and agricultural crops to certify they are free of diseases and destructive pests. This facilitates the interstate and international movement of Wisconsin agricultural commodities. The bureau also licenses and inspects nursery growers and dealers, Christmas tree growers, and seed labelers. The bureau conducts pest surveys across the state to evaluate pest pressure on various crops. The bureau publishes a weekly pest survey bulletin that goes out to the agricultural community during the growing season.

The Agrichemical Management Bureau is responsible for the regulation of pesticide storage, handling, application, and disposal to minimize potential exposure and harm to persons, property, and the environment. The bureau directs clean-up of pesticide and fertilizer spills and administers the Agricultural Chemical Clean-Up Program. The bureau administers regulations that set standards for the bulk storage of pesticides and fertilizers, and attempts to assure that animal feed, fertilizer, pesticides, soil and plant additives, and agricultural lime products are correctly labeled and free from adulteration. The bureau licenses manufacturers and distributors of these products and also licenses and certifies pesticide applicators through an examination process. The bureau is also responsible for carrying out inspections, investigations, and enforcement activities related to the above programs. This includes investigation of groundwater contamination by pesticides; complaints of damage or harm to persons, property, or the environment resulting from pesticide misuse; and toxic response incidents involving livestock. The bureau provides funding and technical support to local governments for the collection and disposal of waste pesticides and household hazardous wastes, including unwanted prescription drugs.

2007-2009 Accomplishments:

Land and Water Bureau

- The Livestock Facility Siting Law has provided a predictable and streamlined permitting process that benefits producers and local governments. As of May 2009, forty (40) siting permits were issued (7 by towns, 33 by counties) largely as routine matters within a 4 month timeframe.
- The Soil and Water Resource Management program allocated about \$9.3 million each year in 2008 and 2009 for county conservation staff, and \$11.5 million during the same period for cost-

sharing, including expanded funding to cost-share a potential 133,286 acres with nutrient management plans.

- DATCP, working with DNR, conducted a three-year study on six different farms involving new technologies (anaerobic digesters, impermeable covers, permeable covers, and solid separation with aeration) designed to control odor and air emissions. The results of the demonstration project, partially funded through a USDA Conservation Innovation Grant, showed that some practices, such as covers, were fairly to highly effective in controlling odor, ammonia and hydrogen sulfide, while others, such as digesters, do not work as well.
- DATCP has worked with the DNR to improve permitting of large livestock farms under WPDES Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations program, contributing staff to review engineering and nutrient management plans and improving turnaround for agency review to less than 90 days. Bureau engineering staff reviewed about 50 plans for new and upgraded manure and feed storage systems.
- Wisconsin farmers more than doubled their adoption of nutrient management plans in the biennium, from 750,000 acres in 2006 to 1,600,000 acres in 2008.
- DATCP developed an on-line Manure Management Advisory System, <http://www.manureadvisorysystem.wi.gov/>, that provides manure spreading restriction maps for farmers to minimize the risk of manure runoff.
- DATCP worked with stakeholders to develop budget proposals to implement the August 2006 Working Lands Initiative Steering Committee recommendations. The department conducted 17 working lands workshops around the state with the American Farmland Trust and stakeholders in the period December 2008 to March 2009. The workshops were attended by about 1,500 people. The department also produced seven electronic newsletters sent to a distribution list of over 1,800 persons interested in the working lands initiative.

Plant Industry Bureau

- Identified Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)--a wood boring insect native to Asia that kills ash trees in North America--in Newburg, Wisconsin (Washington County), in August 2008. Since then, EAB has been found in 6 additional counties (Ozaukee, Vernon, Crawford, Brown, Kenosha and Milwaukee) resulting in the department quarantining ash wood movement in 11 counties. EAB is now present in 13 states and two provinces in Canada. The department cooperates with the federal government and other state agencies on an EAB survey, public information, and regulatory program.
- Treated nearly 100,000 acres for gypsy moth at 65 sites in 17 counties in 2007 and over 116,000 acres at 175 sites in 29 counties in 2008. Trapping surveys in 52 counties in 2007 revealed a gypsy moth population increase for the first time in three years; the 2008 survey found a population increase for the 2nd consecutive year. In spring 2009, the department added Iron County, Monroe County, the Apostle Islands and Madeline Island to the list of areas quarantined for gypsy moth.
- Licensed nearly 2000 nursery growers, nearly 1400 nursery dealers, and approximately 800 Christmas tree growers annually between 2007 and 2009. In 2008, staff inspected approximately 25% of the licensed nursery growers and 41% of the nursery dealers. No new or exotic pests were detected on Wisconsin nursery stock.
- Increased issuance of phytosanitary certificates by over 212% in two years, from 2,627 in 2006 to 6,641 in 2007 and 8,203 in 2008. The phytosanitary certification program is a cooperative program with the USDA and with other states that certifies shipments of plants and plant commodities are free of regulated pests before moving into international or interstate commerce. Demand for phytosanitary permits increased substantially over the biennium due to increased export of grain, distillers dried grain, and gluten meal sales to Taiwan. The increase in exports and demand for phytosanitary certificates is expected to continue.

- Surveyed for new and exotic plant pests and diseases and assessed the distribution and abundance of endemic pests affecting Wisconsin agriculture. During the biennium, staff conducted 19 separate surveys annually and published a weekly pest survey bulletin during the growing seasons.
- Analyzed 242 seed samples from 78 of 690 licensed seed labelers in 2008, similar to the sampling program conducted in 2007. The overall violation rate was 10%, down slightly from the 12% violation rate in 2007. About half of the violations were minor.

Agrichemical Management Bureau

- Funded 12 grants totaling \$95,000 for a pilot prescription drug Clean Sweep program in 2008. The pilot programs collected 7,731 pounds of prescription drugs, including 737 of controlled substances. The department also awarded over \$900,000 for 55 chemical collection grants. Grant recipients collected 157,524 pounds of agricultural and 2,467,931 pounds of household chemical waste from 45,468 residents, farms, and businesses during Clean Sweep collections in 2008. Both waste (12%) and participants (30%) increased substantially from 2007. In late 2008, the department lapsed funding for the spring 2009 Clean Sweep program. Programs that held spring events were partially reimbursed with funding that was restored in the 2009-2011 biennial budget.
- Implemented the revised bulk storage and containment rules (ATCP 33). The new rules took effect in late 2006, and the bureau prioritized providing information to facilities about the new rules and held numerous training sessions to industry. Field staff also conducted full bulk inspections at 316 facilities in 2007 as part of educating facilities about the new rules; typically, staff conduct between 20-25 full bulk inspections annually.
- Managed 254 remediation cases at agrichemical facilities and reimbursed about \$2.6 million in clean-up costs to responsible parties in 2007 as part of the agricultural chemical clean-up program (ACCP). These totals decreased slightly to 238 cases and \$1.9 million in reimbursements in 2008, due primarily to staff vacancies. Bureau staff responded to 53 pesticide and fertilizer spills in 2008, an increase of 20% over the 45 spills handled in 2007. Also, in 2007, the legislature authorized the department to establish an agrichemical pollution prevention grant program. The rule-writing process for this new program is on hiatus due to staffing vacancies.
- Issued over 13,000 pesticide applicator, fertilizer, soil and plant additive, lime, feed, and pesticide manufacturing licenses annually in 2007 and 2008. Also, registered over 11,000 pesticide products, certified approximately 6,000 pesticide applicators annually (for a total of nearly 26,000 certified applicators), investigated 181 pesticide, feed, and fertilizer complaints and took 113 enforcement actions in 2008. There were 14% fewer complaints in 2008 than in 2007, but the number of violations remained constant.
- Conducted 491 federal, grant-funded inspections related to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and medicated feed. The Food and Drug Administration passed a new rule governing what parts of rendered bovine can be used in animal feed, effective April 28, 2009. The department issued guidance to licensees about the changes and is working with an intra-agency team to address the impacts of the rule on all agricultural sectors.
- Conducted an extensive survey of agricultural chemicals in groundwater in 2007, sampling 429 private wells. The bureau published the results of this survey in 2008. The state also established a groundwater standard for alachlor ESA in 2008, which is a commonly detected pesticide compound in Wisconsin groundwater. Survey and sampling work during the biennium found new pesticide detections and increasing nitrate concentrations in groundwater.

2009-2011 Program Goals:

- Maintain and protect the states land base by implementing the Working Lands Initiative that was included in the budget bill. This includes modernizing the farmland preservation program, establishing agricultural enterprise areas, and providing grants to purchase agricultural conservation easements to protect the state's working lands.
- Ensure that the livestock facility siting law is implemented fairly according to legal requirements; facilitate local implementation, including renewed efforts to build on opportunities created by the Working Lands Initiative; and conduct fourth-year program review and rule update if needed.
- Survey and control for plant pests and diseases to ensure the health and profitability of the forestry, crop, and nursery sectors of the economy.
- Improve environmental, public health, and livestock protection in Wisconsin while allowing for the efficacious and wise use of fertilizer, pesticide, and other agrichemical materials.

Division of Management Services

The Division of Management Services provides central administrative services to the Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the Secretary's Office and the other Divisions of the Department. These functions include: budget development, procurement, accounting, and financial management; information technology services; human resource services; and general agency support services. Laboratory services, provided to the other divisions and other state agencies, is also located in the Division of Management Services. The division is made up of the Administrator's Office, the Bureau of Finance, the Bureau of Human Resources, the Bureau of Information Technology, and the Bureau of Laboratory Services.

Administrator's Office

The Division of Management Services' Administrator's Office provides a variety of services to the department including agency representation for statewide enterprise-level initiatives; facilities management and long-term facilities planning; general policy research and analysis; Geographical Information Services (GIS) coordination for the agency, including setting standards and coordinating with other state agencies, the University of Wisconsin, local governments, and tribes.

The Administrator's Office performs oversight of the division activities in addition to special projects assigned by the Office of the Secretary. The Administrator provides oversight of the Agency Continuity of Operations, Continuity of Government, and pandemic planning for the agency.

Bureau of Finance

The Bureau of Finance has overall responsibility for the fiscal management of the department, including preparing the biennial budget request in cooperation with the Secretary's Office and divisions; assisting divisions in establishing and monitoring operating budgets; preparing and reviewing contracts in consultation with the divisions and the Office of Legal Counsel; helping divisions procure goods and services; managing the department's purchasing card program; and establishing and maintaining financial systems and processing all financial transactions for the department in coordination with the Department of Administration and the State Treasurer.

Bureau of Human Resources

The Bureau of Human Resources provides human resource management services to the department, including reasonable accommodations, employee assistance program administration, and organizational and management analysis. Other services include staffing related activities; evaluating employee classification and compensation and developing and revising employee class specifications; processing payroll transactions and preparing payroll reports; administering collective bargaining agreements, personnel policies and state and federal employment requirements; handling personnel cases and grievances; assessing training needs and providing department-wide employee training; evaluating agency labor data and developing long-term strategic workforce plans; and developing and managing risk management policies and activities.

Flexible Work Options:

- The department's policy of offering employees a choice in selecting their work schedules continued during the 2007-2009 biennium. Most employees have the opportunity to select work schedules that alter their starting and ending times. While data on the number of employees that are actively utilizing this policy is not available, many department employees have expressed an interest in exercising and maintaining this practice.

Bureau of Information Technology Services

The Bureau of Information Technology Services (BITS) provides information technology services to the department by working with program divisions and Office of the Secretary to identify automation priorities for the improvement of program functions and enhanced capability through the use of

automated solutions and technology; developing and maintaining applications and databases for DATCP programs; researching new automation capabilities; and developing and maintaining the agency Internet/intranet Web sites for public information dissemination and internal communications.

The bureau provides voice and data telecommunications services for local and remote offices and field staff in home offices; supervises the procurement, installation and support of IT, including hardware and software and network infrastructure; supervises the management of agency documents, records, and forms in both printed and electronic format; provides graphic design services, mailing, shipping, receiving, and printing services; and provides motor pool services for the agency.

The bureau maintains its focus on ensuring the department's business needs drive technology enhancements. An enhanced planning and project management process within the business areas enables the business areas and BITS to strengthen its planning and prioritization of valuable resources.

Bureau of Laboratory Services

The Bureau of Laboratory Services is the State's official laboratory supporting DATCP regulatory programs. Testing is done in support of several statewide programs that pertain to animal feed, fertilizers, pesticide misuse, agricultural chemical spills, agricultural chemical cleanup, protection of groundwater from agricultural chemicals, food safety, and enforcement of the Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance.

The laboratory is Wisconsin's regulatory dairy testing lab supporting interstate shipment of grade A products by the dairy industry and state inspection of meat plants. The laboratory is the state's emergency response food testing laboratory in bacterial illness outbreak situations.

The laboratory provides testing to aid in the prevention of contamination of groundwater and surface water from agricultural chemicals, and analyzes samples taken in support of the rapid response spills program. The laboratory also provides priority testing as an integral part of the agency's emergency response team.

2007- 2009 Accomplishments:

Bureau of Human Resources

- During the biennium, the bureau worked with the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee (AAAC) to strengthen the agency's partnership with Glendale Elementary School in Madison. This effort has increased staff involvement in the local community and has sparked a spirit of volunteerism. Department employees volunteer their time as mentors to students, classroom aides, and assistants on various special projects. In addition, AAAC coordinated a department drive for school supplies that was held prior to the beginning of each school year within the biennium. This resulted in employees donating over 2,000 pounds of school supplies and money to assist students with a successful start to each fall school semester.
- The bureau participated in four classification surveys within three different bargaining units, contributing necessary updates to the current classification specifications.
- The bureau evaluated the current needs of the agency internship programs, identifying several areas of improvement. During the second half of the biennium changes were implemented to improve the quality of the program and resources available for interns and supervisors. Additional improvements were also identified to be reviewed during the upcoming biennium.
- The Training Officer organized and offered key training opportunities to meet the needs of department employees.

Bureau of Information Technology Services

BITS continued to implement the agency IT plan and objectives. Accomplishments that resulted from implementation of the plan include:

- Continued work with business areas to enhance and expand their use of the common customer data base and licensing system (Amanda) through standards, productivity controls, and training to enable business areas to maximize their use and independent self reliance with the common system. Last year approximately 40,000 license renewals were processed for over 60 individual DATCP licenses. Enhancements in Amanda provided functionality to support new legal requirements and business initiatives for program management efficiency, effectiveness, and enforcement.
- Completed application upgrades covering the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Soil and Water Resource Management, Food Safety's Dairy Compliance and Monitoring, Premises, and Human Resources training programs to address new legislation and program administration requirements.
- Completed the migrations of DATCP servers to the Department of Administration data center meeting the Governor's consolidation initiative goals.
- Provision of support for DATCP involvement at State Fair and Farm Expo to enhance visibility of Wisconsin resources and products.
- Completed upgrades and enhancements to computer systems, PCs, network infrastructure, and print shop infrastructure to maintain a stable and supportable infrastructure and resources for DATCP programs. Areas of upgrade and enhancement include SQL data base, GIS hardware/software, network equipment/speed, CITRIX remote access for ARM Case Tracking System, mail room, .Net applications development platform, online FAX resource, BlackBerry resources, and a SharePoint collaboration resource.
- Implemented cost reductions through the use of laptops with signature pads instead of tablets and by tuning server consolidation services for more effective use of DET resources.
- Expanded and developed new web applications to include online registrations, payments, orders, and online license renewals and applications for selected programs.

Bureau of Laboratory Services

- The bureau analyzed approximately 14,000 regulatory samples in each year of the biennium.
- The bureau was involved in analyzing imported food samples for the presence of the contaminant Melamine, and the detection of a significant quantity of melamine in cookies prevented their distribution in Wisconsin.
- The bureau is now accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation; a recognition of the bureau's ability to meet internationally recognized standards for detecting pathogens in food.

2009-2011 Program Goals:

- Support the vision and goals of the department by partnering with management and staff to provide information, advice, and expertise that support the needs of the agency.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

